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92

MONTHLY INVESTMENT ALLOCATOR



MARKET OUTLOOK

- ♠ In US, IHS Markit US Manufacturing PMI recorded at 54.9 in Feb 2019, up from 53.8 in Jan 2019. Private sector output growth regained momentum in Feb 2019 driven by sustained rebound in new business in the domestic economy. Resilient goods demand help to boost job creation in Feb 2019 as seen in initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped by 23,000 to record at 216,000 for the week ended 16th Feb 2019. On top of that, nonfarm payrolls added 304,000 jobs in Jan 2019 after 222,000 jobs created in Dec 2018. Despite the steady hiring, wage growth and ongoing low unemployment, inflation is kept steady at 1.6% in Jan 2019, below the critical
- Concern about China's debt is rising again as Beijing ramps up support for a slowing economy. Private sector in China accounts for over 50% of China's economic growth, more than 80% of China's urban employment and account for more than 70% of technological innovation in the country. In order to address the high borrowing cost in private firms, regulator prohibited banks from discriminatory practices when approving loan. Apart from that, regulator also have ordered banks in China to increase financial support for private companies, with big state-owned bank told to increase loans to smaller firms by 30%.
- Japan Nikkei Flash Manufacturing PMI declined to 48.5 in Feb 2019 from 50.3 in Jan 2019 as production and new orders falls. Reading above 50 indicate expansion, while below 50 indicate contraction. Japan exports continue to decline, fell 8.4% in Jan 2019 dragged by 17% decline in shipments to China, suggesting a deepening impact from China's economic slowdown. Separately, core inflation rose 0.8% in Jan 2019 driven by rise in service inflation as firms pass wage rise to consumers in the tighten labour market environment.
- ASEAN bourses registered mixed return in Feb 2019. Jakarta Composite Index (JCI), and Philippines's Stock Exchange Index (PCOMP) fell by 1.4% and 3.8% MoM respectively. Singapore's Straits Times Index (STI), Thailand's Stock Exchange Index (SET), and FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI Index (FBMKLCI) increased by 0.7%, 0.7%, and 1.4% MoM respectively.
- China and US are approaching the "final stages" on trade negotiations and is expected to come out with an agreement at end of March 2019 while tension remains between India and Pakistan. Although we do not make any changes to our portfolio, we expect higher volatility and even some weakness in the global equity markets.

EQUITY

FBMKLCI increased by 1.4% MoM in Feb 2019 to close at 1,707.7. Looking at the trading participants for the month, both local retailers and local institution were net buyers, buying RM90mil and RM726mil worth of shares respectively. Foreign Investors on the other hand, was the net seller, selling RM816mil worth of shares. On year-to-date (YTD) basis, local retailers and foreign investors remains as net buyer, buying RM270mil and RM211mil worth of shares respectively. While, local institutions are the net seller, selling at RM481 million.

Most sectors in Malaysia recorded positive returns except healthcare, property, and plantation which fell 0.3%, 0.5%, and 0.6% respectively in Feb 2019. Other sectors namely finance, telecom, technology, consumer, utility, construction, industrial product, transport, and energy rose 1.6%, 1.8%, 2.0%, 2.1%, 2.1%, 3.5%, 4.3%, 4.8%, and 12.2% MoM respectively. Energy sector rose 12.2% MoM on the back of higher oil price.

BONDS

In Feb 2019, the yield for the Malaysian Government Securities (MGS) for 3-year, 5-year, 7-year, and 10-year MGS decreased by 1bps, 4bps, 3bps and 17bps to close at 3.57%, 3.72%, 3.87% and 3.89% respectively.

COMMODITIES

Nymex (WTI) crude oil increased 6.4% MoM in Feb 2019, to close at \$57.22/barrel from \$53.79/barrel in Jan 2019. The rise has been boosted by OPEC-led production cuts which aimed at draining oversupply and U.S. sanctions on Venezuela. Crude palm oil, fell by 13.0% MoM to close at RM1,915/MT in Feb 2019 from RM2,200/MT in Jan 2019. Gold price recorded a marginal declined of 0.3% MoM to close at \$1,316/Oz in Feb 2019 as oppose to \$1,320/Oz in Jan 2019.

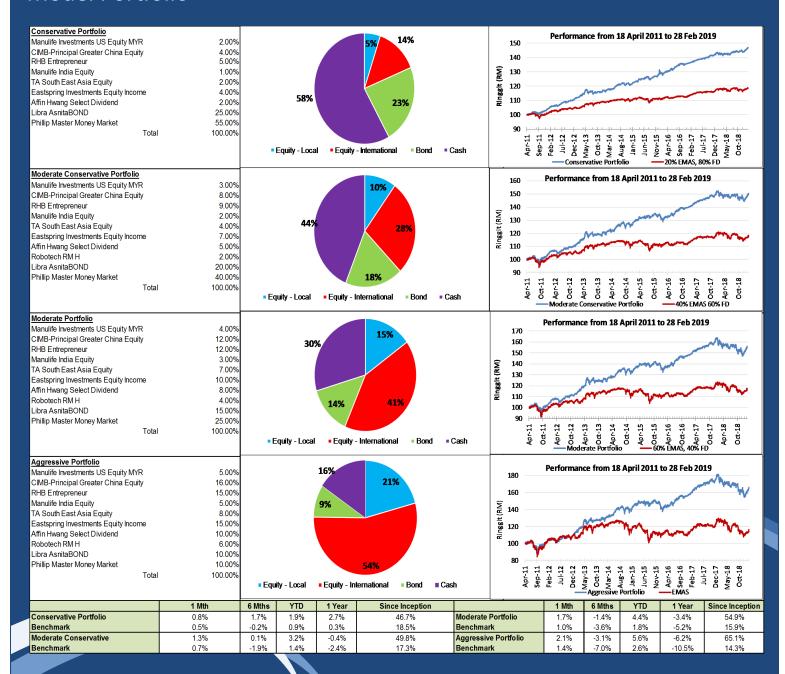


1.7900 1.7765 1.7810 1.

Commentary

All of our model portfolios registered positive returns, outperformed their respective benchmarks in Feb 2019. Top performing funds were Robotech Fund and CIMB-Principal Greater China Equity Fund which increased 5.2% MoM and 4.7% MoM respectively.

Model Portfolio



Source : Lipper

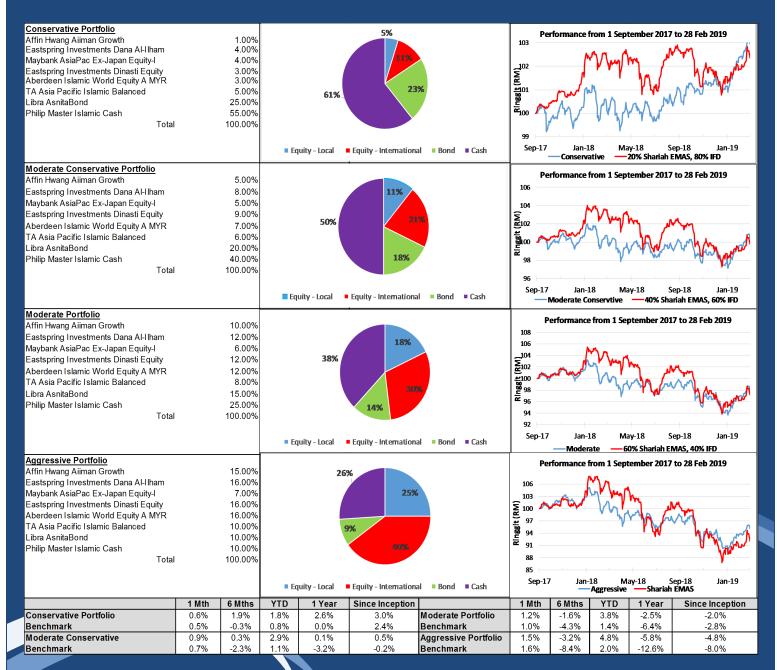


1.7900 1.7765 1.7810 2.7765 1.7810 2.7765 1.7810 1.7900 1.7810 1.

Commentary

Similarly, most Shariah model portfolios registered positive returns while outperformed their respective benchmarks except marginally underperformance of aggressive portfolio in Feb 2019. Top performing funds were Eastspring Investment Dinasti Equity fund and Aberdeen Islamic world Equity A MYR increased 2.3% MoM and 2.2% MoM respectively.

Shariah Model Portfolio



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Source: Lipper

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